Important measure taken to prevent, out-break of fire are listed below.—

In underground mines:

(i) Extraction of coal by forming panels of proper size which can be extracted within the incubation period.

(ii) Constructing preparatory stoppings to enable quick isolation of the panel in case of out-break of fire.

(iii) Monitoring environmental conditions in extraction areas, sealed off areas, old workings, return airways for early detection of fires.

(iv) Blanketing of surface areas over extracted areas.

(v) Inspection of workings, isolation/fire-stoppings, including old workings on idle days.

(vi) Environmental tele-monitoring systems are being installed in a phased manner in some fiery and highly gassy underground mines. Already thirteen such systems are in operation and two more such systems are under procurement.

In opencast mines:

(i) Blanketing of exposed benches in coal seams prone to spontaneous heating and in coal stocks.

(ii) Provision for waler-spraying.

(iii) Regular inspection of coal dumps, OB dumps, stocks etc.

Commissioning of Stealth Frigate

3406. SHRIRAMAMUNIREDDYSWGIREDDY: Will the minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first of the three multi-purpose stealth frigate built in jssia for the Indian Navy is going to be commissioned in May 2003 ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) Subject to acceptance trials, the frigate would be commissioned in May, 2003.

(b) Do notarise.

Lifting of US sanctions against Pakistan and its impact on Indian Defence

3407. SHRIK. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the lifting of US sanctions against Pakistan both economic and military will have any impact on the Indian defence preparedness;

(b) whether India is planning to enchance its ICBM capabilities; anc

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) No. Sir.

(c) Docs not arise.

Purchase of early advance warning helicopters from Russia

3408. SHRI R. K. ANAND : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) Weather it is a fact that the department of Defence has recently i.urchiised two early advance warning helicopters from Russia;

(b) if so, the total amount spent on acquiring these two helicopters;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Russia had not finished testing all systems and equipments on these helicopters that India has purchased;

(d) if so, what was the hurry to acquire the helicopters if the war cloud h ve vanished ; and

(e) if not, whether the Russian leporl on the helicopters has been satisfactory?